

Gardens Currently Located in Guilford County:

Mixed Greens Community Garden
3309 Burlington Road
Greensboro, NC 27405
375-5876

Glenwood Community Garden
Located at Steelman Park
Gregory Street
Greensboro, NC

Pennybyrn Retirement Center
109 Penny Road
High Point, NC 27260
886-2444

Keely Park Community Garden

Greensboro, NC 274
373-5868



North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service Guilford County Center

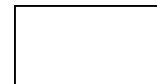
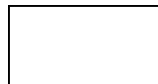
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Community Gardens of Guilford County



What is a Community Garden?

Community gardens are as varied as the neighborhoods in which they thrive. Each is developed to meet the needs of the participants who come together to grow fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs, and ornamental plants on common ground. In addition to providing fresh fruits and vegetables to those on a limited income, gardens can also build community, teach life skills, promote health, and much more. Community gardens can be found at such diverse locations as schools, parks, housing projects, places of worship, vacant lots, and private properties. Community gardens provide a place for individuals and families to grow healthy, nutritious food while enjoying the pleasures and benefits of a natural setting. This opportunity is especially important to people who do not possess garden space of their own. These gardens serve as catalysts for bringing people together and improving community.



Who Can Start a Community Garden?

It takes a strong commitment of at least three to five individuals to create and manage a successful garden. Develop this core group before proceeding. Don't begin to plan a garden until a clear desire for the garden, need for the potential outcomes of the garden, and visible opportunity for a successful garden exist.

Community and senior centers, where people gather, have excellent potential as community garden sites. Vacant lots are widely available in the inner city. Often city officials are happy to save money by having someone else take care of the property.

Participating in a community garden may result in gardeners and their families eating a wider variety and larger quantity of fresh fruits and vegetables, leading to an overall improvement in nutrition. Those who participate in the garden increase their physical activity and overall health. In addition, gardening reduces stress, fear, anger, muscle tension, and blood pressure.

10 Steps to a Successful Community Garden

1. Define the purpose of the garden. Possible purposes include recreation, therapy, community/youth development, nutrition, entrepreneurship, and/or_____
2. Identify the target audience of gardeners. Gardeners might be community members, church groups, youth groups, handicapped, senior citizens, recreators, and/or folks interested in supplementing income.
3. Identify the leadership within that target audience. The "movers and shakers" in any group are often very easy to identify. In fact, they tend to "find" you. They may be paid by an organization.
4. Identify "people resources" for the project. These are people who have some power to influence decisions made in your behalf. For example, the local Housing Authority or City Redevelopment Agency may have to "sign off" on the project.
5. Identify a garden site. It seems that everyone is excited about cleaning up unsightly vacant lots. Other potential sites are schools, housing developments, churches, and community centers.
6. Get permission to use the site. Bring your resources to bear and be prepared with your "sales pitch." Have answers ready for the liability questions that are sure to be asked. Will there be a site or plot fee?
7. Prepare the site. You'll need to think about cleaning up trash, what to do with weeds, soil preparation, irrigation, infrastructure, compost or other organic matter, marking plots, walkways, bulletin boards, and fencing.
8. Organize the gardeners at a get-together. Get people excited about the upcoming gardening season. Discuss rules and requirements.
9. Have a "Grand Opening." You may want to require growers to show up to get their plot assignment. Think about a seed giveaway or some other "draw" to get people there.
10. Hold meetings during the growing season to discuss problems. These are sure to come up, and they may include vandalism, relations among neighbors, theft, water use, and many more. These meetings provide a good time for an educational presentation.